



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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**Bureau of Community Health Systems**

Susan Mosier, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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## Celebrate National Preparedness Month

*by Michael McNulty, Director of Homeland Security Operations,  
Preparedness Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



September is nearly here and once again we are ready to celebrate National Preparedness Month. This year's national theme is Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Preparedness program wants to emphasize the importance of families making plans together of what they would do in an emergency and to think about the special needs of children and pets as part of that planning. As you make your family's plan you also need to think about the stuff in your kit, to have what you need when an emergency strikes.

For those of you on social media, the official hashtag for Preparedness Month is #NatlPrep. You can also use a general #preparedness or even #kswx if you're sharing Kansas weather preparedness information. Ready.gov and America's PrepareAthon! will also be sharing a lot of social media tips at @Readygov and @PrepareAthon on Twitter and [www.facebook.com/readygov](http://www.facebook.com/readygov).

KDHE's own Fred the Preparedness Dog is also planning on getting the word out about preparedness. One of the ideas that Fred has recently been sharing is the family activity of taking a first-aid/CPR class as a family. This combines a good preparedness activity with some good old fashion family time. For a template family emergency plan and family emergency kit supply list to share with individuals and families in your area visit <http://www.fredthepreparednessdog.org/parents.htm>.

Fred also has a number of in-person visits already scheduled and will continue his sharing on Facebook and Twitter. If you would like to follow Fred and share his information he is at [www.facebook.com/FredthePreparednessDogKDHE](http://www.facebook.com/FredthePreparednessDogKDHE) and @FredPrepDog on Twitter.

## Local Public Health Leadership Series

*by Sonja Armbruster, Director of Public Health Initiatives,  
Center for Community Support and Research, Wichita State University*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) are offering a leadership development opportunity for all local and state public health professionals in Manhattan, Kansas. Dates for the Local Public Health Leadership Series are:

- January 12 - 13
- February 16 - 17
- March 8 - 9
- April 12 - 13



The purpose of the Local Public Health Leadership Series is to enhance the ability of local health department administrators and staff to exercise leadership in the delivery of Medicaid services to residents in their communities.

Leadership involves mobilizing others, sometimes without direct authority to do so, in an effort to address difficult community challenges. These difficult, daunting, adaptive challenges don't have a single expert or manager that can fix them. Progress can be made to address adaptive challenges but it will require learning, involvement of stakeholders and persistent efforts. Public health professionals are in key positions to provide this kind of leadership.

The Local Public Health Leadership Series will develop core knowledge and skills related to identifying and responding to adaptive challenges. The focus will be on development of leadership competencies identified by the Kansas Leadership Center: Diagnosing the Situation, Managing Self, Energizing Others and Intervening Skillfully. The Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research (WSU-CCSR) will serve as faculty and coaches for the series which is modeled after the Kansas Leadership Center's training curriculum and methods. If you want to know more, email Seth Bate at [seth.bate@wichita.edu](mailto:seth.bate@wichita.edu) or Sonja Armbruster at [Sonja.armbruster@wichita.edu](mailto:Sonja.armbruster@wichita.edu).

If you are interested, the application can be accessed by visiting the KALHD website. Send the completed application to [kristina.helmer@wichita.edu](mailto:kristina.helmer@wichita.edu) by November 20.

## Delaying HPV Immunization is a Deadly Waiting Game

by *Sharon G. Humiston, MD, MPH, FAAP*  
*Margaret C. Fisher, MD, FAAP*



Like most pediatricians, we do not typically see children with cancers caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in patients, although we have cared for patients with juvenile-onset respiratory papillomatosis. Our motivation for trying to improve HPV vaccination rates now largely has to do with what we have seen HPV do to the lives of friends, colleagues, and the parents of our patients.

Fortunately, infection with some important strains of HPV infection can be prevented in young people through [vaccination](#). What a privilege it is to be a pediatrician at a time when we can really make a difference in our patients' lives. While most doctors report that they recommend HPV vaccine, a lot of mothers hear a provider recommendation that sounds like this, "My doctor said my adolescent should get the pertussis vaccine because whooping cough is going around again and the meningitis vaccine because that's a dreaded disease. He said she should get the HPV vaccine at some point, but it can wait for now." With respect to effective strategies, waiting is right behind hoping.

To read the complete commentary on HPV Immunization by Dr. Humiston and Dr. Fisher [click here](#).

## New Public Health Campaign titled #ThinkTravelHistory

by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics has developed a new public health campaign titled #ThinkTravelHistory designed to foster open communications between clinicians and patients about travel. These materials are also designed to encourage clinical staff to take part in an open dialog, via social media, with others from around the state about the importance of assessing travel histories as a part of their clinical routine. As a part of this social media campaign, KDHE will spark conversations and share information on the unique characteristics of specific diseases that are occurring in the world. Participation in the social media elements of this campaign is done through the use of hashtags on Facebook or Twitter. Search #ThinkTravelHistory on Facebook or Twitter to

join the conversation. Remember to add the #ThinkTravelHistory anywhere in the text of your responses.

To encourage communication between patient and provider all hospitals in Kansas will receive two 11x17 inch posters, one with messaging directed toward clinicians and one directed toward patients. Additional posters are available for download in various sizes on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's website. Click the picture for more information.

## In the Spotlight

### National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey Comes to Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties

from the CDC website, Jefferson County Health Department and Pottawatomie County Health Department



The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States. The survey is unique in that it combines interviews and physical examinations. NHANES is a major program of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). NCHS is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has the responsibility for producing vital and health statistics for the Nation. The NHANES program started in the early 1960s and over time has evolved from a series of survey's focusing on different population groups or health topics to a continuous effort with a changing focus on a variety of health and nutrition measurements to meet emerging needs.

The 15 counties the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) picked for inclusion in this year's NHANES constitute a nationally representative sample of America's population as a whole in the eyes of the Atlanta based agency, which functions under the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. Two of the counties selected this year are Jefferson and Pottawatomie Counties in Kansas. There will be approximately 1,500 citizens interviewed from each county with 463 citizens from Jefferson County and 487 from Pottawatomie County who will have been interviewed and provided physical examinations. Each of the counties collaborated with a local partner to provide a public site for the mobile examination center for the comprehensive physical evaluation component of the study. Jefferson County is working with the F.W. Huston Medical Center in Winchester and Pottawatomie County with the Highland Community College in Wamego.

Disease, medical conditions and health indicators CDC personnel will be studying include anemia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, environmental exposures, infectious diseases, nutrition, obesity, oral health, physical activity and functioning reproductive history and sexual behavior, respiratory disease and sexually transmitted diseases. NHANES serves as the nation's health check-up going into communities to collect health information through the country.

Questions about the NHANES study being conducted in Kansas can be directed to the Jefferson County Health Department at 785-863-2447 or the Pottawatomie County Health Department at 785-457-3719.

## Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project Kick's Off - September 30

by Sonja Armbruster, Center for Community Support and Research,  
Wichita State University and



Cristi Cain, Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health System, KDHE

The Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project (KARP) will hold a summit on September 30 in Salina, Kansas at the Rolling Hills Zoo. The summit will be an opportunity for local health departments to better understand how they may use the accreditation process to develop practices and strategies to become a high performing health department. Participants will learn more about the accreditation process, ongoing accreditation work in Kansas, and the requirements for accreditation. Participants will also have the opportunity to gain tips for gathering documentation materials, and hear from others about their strategies for delivering public health services.

All local health departments are invited. Each agency may bring up to four staff. Participants must register for the event by September 11 using <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID #1048695. For more information about the event or to register, please contact Katie Mahuron at 316-978-6776 or [Katie.Mahuron@wichita.edu](mailto:Katie.Mahuron@wichita.edu).

## Oral Health Excellence Awards

by Oral Health Kansas



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

Each year, we honor outstanding individuals and organizations who are dedicated to improving oral health in Kansas. The categories for nominations are:

- Outstanding Organization
- Outstanding Dental Hygiene Clinician
- Outstanding Dentist Clinician
- Outstanding Community Leader
- Bob Bethel Outstanding Policy Maker
- Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer

The forms to complete for nominations are below. All nominations must be submitted by September 28 at 5 p.m.

- [Excellence in Oral Health Awards Nomination Form](#)
- [Outstanding Dental Champion Award Nomination Form](#)

To view a list of past award recipients, click here: [Award Winners](#)

If you have any questions about the award nominations, please call 785-235-6039 or email at [fo@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:fo@oralhealthkansas.org).

## Save the Date!-Regional KDADS Prevention Meetings

by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services



We are pleased to invite you to gather and meet representatives for a discussion regarding the development of our new approach to prevention. Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and our contracting partners will provide information on the developing support system and hear from you about the needs regarding immediate assistance and long term infrastructure.

Each meeting will have representatives from Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research, DCCCA, Greenbush, and the Kansas University Workgroup for Community Health and Development. If you have questions, please contact KDADS at 785-368-7429.

Meeting dates and sites:

- August 31, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., City Limits Convention Center, 2225 S Range Ave, Colby
- September 1, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., Clarion Inn 1911 E Kansas Ave, Garden City
- September 2, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m., WSU Metroplex, 5015 E 29th St N, Wichita
- September 2, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., Courtyard Marriott, 3020 Riel Drive, Salina
- September 3, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Express, 3411 SW Iowa, Lawrence
- September 4, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., Alliance Room (City of Chanute) 101 S Lincoln, Memorial Building, Chanute

## WSU LAUNCHES BADGE PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

by Kimberly Moore, Director Office for Workforce, Professional and Community Education, WSU



Wichita State University's [new badge program](#) makes education accessible and affordable. Badges are designed with the working professional in mind. Coursework is structured for a student to complete online at their convenience, but in smaller increments. The first badge course to launch is the Care of Population Health Professions, Badge 1, and it is aimed at public health professionals.

This badge is a 0.5 credit hour class that will appear on a transcript indicating that academic work was successfully completed in a short course for less than a full credit hour. The Care of Population badge program is broken into six badge courses all tied directly to Tier 1 of the Public Health Core Competencies. Besides the core competencies, students can use the badge content for continuing education and in some cases toward a degree.

Registration is now available for Badge 1. Badges 2-6 will launch spring 2016. Students can learn more about the badge program and register online at KS-TRAIN, Course ID# 1059105.

## Is Prescription Drug Abuse a Problem in Your Community?

by Cristi Cain, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



Prescription drug abuse and overdose is a serious public health issue in the U. S. In fact, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has classified prescription drug abuse as an epidemic. The burden of prescription drug abuse and overdose not only impacts individuals and families but communities, employers, the healthcare system, and public and private insurers. Addressing this complex problem requires a multi-faceted approach and collaboration between public health, clinical medicine, and public safety at the federal, state, and local levels, states CDC.

While there has been a marked decrease in the use of some illegal drugs like cocaine, data from the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health \(NSDUH\)](#) show that nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non-medically.

Because prescription drugs are legal, they are easily accessible, often from a home medicine cabinet. Some individuals who misuse prescription drugs, particularly teens, believe these substances are safer than illicit drugs because they are prescribed by a healthcare professional and dispensed by a pharmacist. Addressing the prescription drug abuse epidemic is not only a top priority for public health, it will also help build stronger communities and allow those with substance abuse disorders to lead healthier, more productive lives, states the [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#).

Increases in prescribing opioid pain relievers – drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone and fentanyl – are driving a dramatic increase in overdose deaths over the last decade. Opioid pain reliever overdose deaths have quadrupled since 1999. Today, the supply of opioid pain relievers is larger than ever.

The [Kansas Behavioral Health Profile Prescription Drug Indicators](#) report states that the number of Kansans seeking treatment for opiates and other prescription pain relievers has steadily increased since 2009.

The [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#) states that prevention is “the best strategy,” to avoid misuse in the first place. Many people are not aware of the serious health hazards that prescription drugs can pose when not used properly. A report from the [Trust for America's Health](#) notes key approaches to preventing misuse in the first place include:

- Educating the public
- Educating healthcare providers
- Educating about safe storage and disposal of medications
- Identifying patients and connecting them to care

There are a number of resources available that can assist the public health workforce and the general public in understanding and addressing prescription drug abuse. Resources include:

- [Addressing Prescription Drug Abuse in the United States](#), CDC
- [Fact Sheet: Opioid Abuse in the United States](#), White House
- [Fact Sheet: Prescription Drugs: A Response to the Epidemic of Prescription Drug Abuse](#),
- [PEERx](#), resource for teens, National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- [Prescription Drugs: Abuse and Addiction](#), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- [Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic](#), Trust for America's Health
- [National and State Treatment Need and Capacity for Opioid Agonist Medication-Assisted Treatment](#), American Journal of Public Health

The Local Public Health Program would like to be informed about what you are seeing related to prescription drug abuse in your communities. Please e-mail Cristi Cain at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov) or call at 785-296-3641 to share information.

## Why Public Health Matters - Upcoming Regional Workshops

by Dennis Kriesel, Kansas Association of Counties



One of the core functions of government is the operation and preservation of a public health system. In Kansas, significant responsibility in providing this service rests at the county level. As part of its significant efforts to support the public health system, the Kansas Health Foundation has provided funding for several regional workshops. The topic chosen, Why Public Health Matters: Disease Surveillance, is both timely, as shown by the recent national outbreak of measles and the earlier concern about a potential Ebola pandemic, and mandatory, there are statutory requirements on county governments to provide for disease surveillance.

Their purpose is to bring together county commissioners, local health department administrators and other stakeholders to outline a course of action that will contribute to an efficient and effective public health system in the counties. Registration is required, but there is no cost to attend and dinner will be provided. Click the logo for the registration link.

Why Public Health Matters Workshops Dates, Locations and How to Register:

All workshops start at 3:00 pm and end at 7:00 pm.

September 2, Clarion Hotel, Garden City, [Click Here to Register](#).

September 3, Ramada, Hutchinson, [Click Here to Register](#).

September 9, Hilton Garden Inn, Manhattan, [Click Here to Register](#).



## ACCREDITATION CORNER

### Tools to Help Evaluate Public Health Programs



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a great [website](#) on putting evaluation to work. [EvaluACTION](#) – one of the newest tools from CDC is an award winning tool designed to help you evaluate your public health programs and strategies. The site features motion graphic video, evaluation myths, people of evaluation, do's and don'ts and an interactive evaluation plan and logic model. Start building your evaluation plan and logic model today! Click the logo to navigate to the EvaluACTION website.

### PHAB News



The Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) recent [newsletter](#) discusses a new video that they will be unveiling about the benefits of accreditation as related by three health departments that have been there. PHAB is also starting a new body of work related to the accreditation of health departments serving populations of less than 50,000. Health departments have informed PHAB about the need to discuss the barriers they face and PHAB is committed to exploring potential avenues to address those barriers.

### Academic Health Department Mentorship Program Set to Launch



As the summer kicks off, the [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council on Linkages) is preparing to launch its newest activity - an [Academic Health Department \(AHD\) Mentorship Program](#). Developed within the existing AHD Learning Community, the AHD Mentorship Program aims to foster the development, maintenance, and expansion of AHDs by creating ongoing mentoring relationships between individuals involved in AHD efforts. [Find opportunities to get involved and volunteer for the program.](#)

## Funding Opportunities

### Upcoming Funding Opportunity for LHD Accreditation Preparation - Deadline September 11



The National Association of County and City Health Organizations (NACCHO) is pleased to announce an upcoming funding opportunity for local health departments. With funding from the CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local, & Territorial Support, NACCHO will be offering a fifth year of Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) awards. These awards are intended to stimulate quality improvement and promote the readiness of health departments to seek voluntary national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Potential project activities include efforts to meeting identified PHAB prerequisites, preparing documentation, and offsetting accreditation fees. In addition to monetary support, selected sites will also receive technical assistance from NACCHO and connections to peers in the field.

The Request For Proposals (RFP) for the ASI 2015-2016 awards were made available, via [accreditNATION](#) and on NACCHO's website at [www.naccho.org/fees](#). If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, NACCHO recommends that you assess your agency's accreditation preparation needs and goals over the coming weeks to prepare for the application. NACCHO also recommends you review its [standard contract language](#) because it cannot be modified if an award is received. Questions about this upcoming opportunity can be directed to [asi@naccho.org](#). Subscribe to [accreditNATION](#) to receive the full RFP when it's available.

### Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grants - Deadline September 15



Applications for the fall 2015 cycle of the Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grant program are due by September 15. Recognition Grants expand the Foundation's support to a broad range of organizations throughout the state. The grants are targeted to organizations and agencies proposing meaningful and charitable projects that fit within the Foundation's mission of improving the health of all Kansans. In addition to supporting projects, the Foundation also seeks to support initiatives that focus on promoting policy, systems and environmental (PSE) transformations that support health. To learn more, visit the official [Recognition Grant home page](#) for complete information.

### Funds for Fuel up to Play 60 - Deadline November 4



Plan for 2015-2016! Fuel Up to Play 60 offers funding opportunities to improve the healthy eating and physical activity options in schools. Visit [FuelUpToPlay60.com](#) to view the application. There is up to \$4,000 per year available to qualifying K-12 schools enrolled in Fuel Up to Play 60 to kick start healthy changes. To qualify for the competitive, nationwide funding program, the school must participate in the National School Lunch Program and have a registered [Program Advisor](#). The final round of funding for the 2015-2016 school year is happening now. Be sure to submit your application before the November 4, 2015 deadline. To get started, you will choose one Healthy Eating "Play" and one Physical Activity "Play" from the [2015-2016 Playbook](#). The [School Wellness Investigation](#) will help you determine the "plays" that work best for your school!

## Training and Conference Announcements

### 3rd Quarter Regional Public Health Meetings - September 2 & 8



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Registration is available on [KS-TRAIN](#) (Course ID #1058162), for the 3rd Quarter Regional Public Health Meetings. These meetings are designed for the Local Health Department administrators, however any staff person interested in a particular topic is welcome to attend. The agenda includes the following: Kansas Health Matters: Features, Uses, and Presenting Data to Stakeholders, Greg Crawford, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (KDHE) and Sarah Hartsig, Kansas Health Foundation; Refugee Program, Cyndi Treaster, KDHE; Tiny K Alliance, KS Infant-Toddler Services-Part C, Local Program Administrators.

The last two 3rd Quarter dates are:

- NC Region, Beloit - September 2
- NE Region, Topeka - September 8

### Current Issues in Immunization Pink Book Webinar Series Posted to TRAIN - September Sessions



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, current webinar series, Current *Issues* in Immunization NetConference, which compliments Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, 13th Edition "The Pink Book", is now available through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> and CDC TRAIN at <http://cdc.train.org>. The webinars offer CE through CDC's Training and Continuing Education website.

Immunization Netconferences are live, 1-hour presentations combining an online visual presentation with simultaneous audio via telephone conference call and a live question and answer session. Internet access and a separate phone line are needed to participate. On-demand replays and presentations will be available shortly after each event.

Current Issues in Immunization NetConference scheduled sessions for September:

- 09/02/15 Noon - 1pm EST [Epivac: Polio and Hib \(1058638\)](#)
- 09/09/15 Noon - 1pm EST [Epivac: Meningococcal \(1058639\)](#)
- 09/16/15 Noon - 1pm EST [Epivac: Measles, Mumps, Rubella \(1058640\)](#)
- 09/23/15 Noon - 1pm EST [Epivac: Influenza \(1058641\)](#)
- 09/30/15 Noon - 1pm EST [Epivac: HPV \(1058642\)](#)

### Register for the KPHA Fall Conference - September 16-17



Registration is open for the 72nd Annual Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference, September 16 - 17, Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan. Conference sessions will focus on the theme Promoting Health for All Kansans. Keynote presenters include Susan Mosier, MD, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, Director, Bridging Health and Healthcare Portfolio, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Julia Resnick, MPH, Program Manager Association for Community Health Improvement moderating a panel discussion on Promoting Health for All Kansans: Hospital and Health Departments Working Together. Click the logo to download the complete conference brochure.

### Health Care Finance Sponsors Medicaid Training - Sessions Begin September 18



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Division of Health Care Finance is offering four [Medicaid Training](#) courses beginning September 18. The courses in this curriculum provide an overview of the Kansas Medicaid and Medicaid eligibility. Interested staff can register for each of the two courses on a single day or over the course of several days. Registration is first-come, first served, and must be done using the [registration form](#) and email to [carace@kdheks.gov](mailto:carace@kdheks.gov). All training sessions will be held at the Eisenhower State Office Building, 4th Floor Auditorium, 700 SW Harrison, Topeka. KDHE Medicaid Training includes many valuable resources. This is an instructor led interactive training for any employee of a Medicaid provider. Certificates will be provided for each course completion. No CEU's are offered.

### 2015 KEHA Fall Conference - September 30 - October 2



The Kansas Environmental Health Association (KEHA) Fall Conference will be held September 30 - October 2 at the Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka. Keynote speakers for this year's event include David Dyjack, Executive Director of the National Environmental Health Association, Sheri Tubach, Health Officer, Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Response Section, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She will present on Environmental Health Surveillance and Data for Program Planning while Michael Bisesi, Sr. Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Administration, Environmental Health Sciences, Ohio State University, will present on Improving Environmental Health Services to Meet Community Needs.

The KEHA conference is posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course ID# 1056505. KEHA has applied for and received a scholarship grant from the Public Health Practice Program (PHPP) under the direction of the Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council. The goal of the grant is to provide instruction and training that will assist state and local public health departments to prepare for accreditation through the national Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information on the conference check the listing on TRAIN or go to the [KEHA website](#). Click the KEHA logo to access the [conference schedule at a glance](#).



### Registration is Open for the Kansas Built Environment and the Outdoors Summit - October 13 - 15



The intersection of healthy living, community building, and economic vitality will be explored and illuminated at the 9th Annual Kansas Built Environment and the Outdoors Summit (BEOS) on October 13 - 15 in Overland Park. Early registration rates for the conference and special rates at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel are available until September 12.

The BEOS attracts city planners, architects, builders, health professionals, recreation and parks officials, community coalition members and more. Each session is designed to provide participants with take-home resources, ideas, motivation and tools so that conference energy translates into immediate action back at home. Click the logo for registration and information.

To register for the conference, reserve your room, and learn about the exceptional lineup of speakers, workshops and site visits, visit [KansasBEOS.org](http://KansasBEOS.org).

### CERC Train-the-Trainer Course - October 14-16

#### CRISIS EMERGENCY RISK COMMUNICATION

The Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Train-the-Trainer course provides public health and other professionals the opportunity to advance their knowledge of CERC, learn strategies for training others in CERC, and practice training CERC to others. This course will be held October 14-16, in Atlanta, GA.

The curriculum includes:

- Content from the 2014 CERC Manual,
- Content on communication theories,
- Strategies for training others, and
- CERC workbook exercises, scenarios, and simulation activities.

You must meet the following registration criteria to register

- Be a state, local, or territorial government public health employee or federal partner,
- Be involved in emergency preparedness and response activities,
- Have organizational funding for your travel costs, and
- Have support from your organization's leadership to attend via letter.

For more information email [cercrequest@cdc.gov](mailto:cercrequest@cdc.gov). Fill out the registration form by clicking the logo.

### Save the Date for the Infection Prevention and Control: Rapid & Radical Response Conference - October 23



The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology is hosting their annual infection prevention conference, entitled Infection Prevention: Rapid and Radical Response on October 23 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Independence, MO. The keynote speaker is Sue Dill Calloway, RN, MSN, JD, CPHRM, CCMSCP, a nurse attorney and president of Patient Safety and Healthcare Consulting and Education; and former chief learning officer and current board member of the Emergency Medicine Patient Safety Foundation.

The focus of this conference will be on the elements of infection prevention practice that require both immediate attention and adaptability. Calloway will enlighten participants about the CMS Interpretive Guidelines on Infection Control and the revised CMS Infection Control Worksheet. Additional topics will include infection prevention during construction, value-based purchasing, an emerging disease update, the infection control risk assessment process, how to affect change in management and organizations, and a question and answer session with experts on these topics. For more information and to receive a brochure, please contact Brenda Wilzbach at 816-760-8844 or visit APIC's website by clicking the logo.





## Save the Date for Kansas Evidenced-Based Public Health Course - November 17-18

Applied use of evidence-based interventions at the state and local levels is critical to achieving successful public health outcomes, a skilled and adaptable workforce, and more efficient and effective use of resources. This training is offered by the Bureau of Health Promotion at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in collaboration with the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Adapted from the Prevention Research Center in St. Louis' highly regarded Evidence-Based Public Health Course, the Kansas course features state specific data, insight from successful Kansas initiatives and guidance from instructors who practice public health in Kansas. As state and local health departments prepare for public health accreditation, the topics, techniques and tools provided through this course will enhance current understanding of principles of health assessment, improvement planning, and evaluation. Don't miss this unique training opportunity.

### Course Themes:

- Selecting Evidence-Based Interventions
- Action Plans for Results
- Quantitative Evaluation
- Using Qualitative Data
- Prioritizing Program & Policy Options
- Economics of Prevention

Course prerequisites: Participants will be expected to attend a series of six pre-recorded webinars prior to the in-person course in Topeka. Each webinar is 30 to 45 minutes in duration.

Course registration and details about webinar recordings will be made available in September. Continuing education will be offered. To receive updates about course registration, please send your contact information to [lvarker@kdheks.gov](mailto:lvarker@kdheks.gov).

### Announcement - New to Online Course Launched!

#### Fundamentals of Kansas Public Health Module 1: Overview of the Kansas System



The Fundamentals of Kansas Public Health: An Overview of the Kansas System, Course, ID# 1056214 on [KS-TRAIN](#) was developed to provide a general understanding of the Kansas public health system for the current, new and future public health workforce. The [Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council \(Council\)](#) identified through its strategic planning process in 2014 and the Kansas Public Health Workforce Assessment in 2015 that there is a gap in the fundamental knowledge of the Public Health Core Functions, the 10 Essential Services and the relationship/linkages to the public health system in Kansas. Support for this course development project was funded by the Kansas Health Foundation Public Health Practice Program with expertise provided by Kansas public health professionals who developed the content.

### CDC Updates Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know for 2015

by AJ Wolfe, State Training Coordinator

Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories, KDHE



KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> has two free online trainings for compliance with the Federal Division 6.2 Materials Law, and to meet Kansas Environmental Health Laboratories shipping requirements. The first course from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just been updated, [Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know, - 2015](#), Course ID# 1058172. Here's what has changed with the course:

- The course was updated to correspond with regulatory changes.
- The course now includes an optional beginner's guide and job aids to assist those who may be less familiar with the pertinent regulations.

If you have not completed the 2014 course you may still do so until July 6. After this date, the course will be expired and you will not be able to complete it. If you have not completed a substantial portion of the 2014 course CDC recommends that it will be worth your time to move over to the 2015 version of the course.

In order to be certified (or recertified) to ship laboratory materials you must complete training on the hazardous materials regulations as well as some facility specific training. This on-line course uses a problem solving approach to provide training on infectious materials (Division 6.2 Materials) as specified in the Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations. The content includes some general security training as well as some guidance on facility specific training. Access to resource documents and a number of job aids will not only enhance your learning experience but also provide useful resources for your laboratory. This course is designed specifically for those who participate in any phase of shipping laboratory specimens within the United States.

You also need to complete the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories course, course ID# 1050287. [KHEL: Preparing Clinical Specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures \(1050287\)](#), is an intermediate-level 45 minute training overview of regulations and procedures associated with evidentiary control measures taken when shipping clinical specimens to Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories after a known or unknown chemical exposure even has occurred. This course is offered to ensure all laboratory staff across Kansas receives the full training needed to fully support their responsibilities as sentinel laboratory staff members.



## News and Resources



### Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next call will be September 22. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

### Nutrition Labeling of Standard Menu Items in Restaurants Extension Compliance Date



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [announced](#) that it would extend the compliance date for its menu labeling final rule to December 1, 2016. FDA plans to issue a draft guidance document in August to provide answers to some frequently asked questions, and will provide an opportunity for comment. In December FDA finalized the menu labeling rule that requires chain restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines with 20 or more locations to list calorie information on their menus and menu boards. Further nutrition information, including sodium, must also be available if requested.

### September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month

One in 3 children in the United States is overweight or obese. Childhood obesity puts kids at risk for health problems that were once seen only in adults, like type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease.

The good news? Childhood obesity can be prevented. Communities, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for kids to eat healthier and get more active. Make a difference for kids: Spread the word about strategies for preventing childhood obesity and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved. Find some National Childhood Obesity Awareness Monthly Tools [Here](#).

### Plan4Health: Planning Makes Public Health a Team Sport

Plan4Health, a partnership between American Public Health Association (APHA) and the American Planning Association (APA), is bringing the intersection of public health and planning to communities nationwide.

This partnership is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Plan4Health supports coalitions comprised of APA and APHA groups to improve health in two distinct ways: nutrition and physical fitness. Public Health Newswire featured [this](#) article about Plan4Health. To find more information about Plan 4Health click the logo.

### Vaccine Sharply Curbs Chickenpox Cases in U.S.



Chickenpox cases in the United States have dropped sharply since a vaccine against the disease became available in 1995, a new study shows. Also, hospitalizations and outpatient visits for chickenpox have continued to fall since 2006, when a second dose of the vaccine was recommended to boost protection against the disease. For this study, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researchers analyzed national health insurance claims data. They found there were 93 percent fewer hospitalizations for chickenpox in 2012, and 84 percent fewer outpatient visits for the disease than in the period before the vaccine was introduced. After the second dose recommendation took effect, hospitalizations dropped 38 percent and outpatient visits declined 60 percent, according to a recent study published in the Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. Click the logo to access the complete article.

### Yesterday's Coffee Science: It's Good for the Brain. Today: Not so Fast...

There's been a ton of news recently about how awesome coffee can be for many aspects of your health — heart disease, longevity, depression, Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's. The scientific data has been so strong that the nation's top nutrition panel recommended earlier this year that people might even want to consider drinking a bit more. Now comes a sobering report. For more information click on the logo.



### ASTHO Releases Factsheet on Immunization Rates Among Pregnant Women



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) published a [factsheet](#) that focuses on improving immunization rates among pregnant women as part of its at-risk population factsheet series. Each factsheet focuses on the value of reaching diverse populations, and includes examples of how public health agencies have successfully done so. Additional factsheets in the series include: [American Indian and Alaska Native tribes](#), [faith-based organizations](#), and [schools](#).

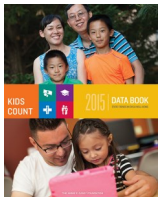
### ASTHO Brief Regarding Technical Assistance on Delivery and Payment Reform



issue brief

In 2014, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) surveyed its members to assess their technical assistance needs related to health systems transformation activities, particularly regarding payment and delivery model programs like the State Innovation Models Initiatives. The resulting [survey results](#) and outlines how ASTHO has used the results to provide technical assistance to state and territorial health agencies.

### Kids Count 2015 Data Released



The [KIDS COUNT Data Book](#) is an annual publication that assesses child well-being nationally and across the 50 states, as well as in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Using an index of 16 indicators, the report ranks states on overall child well-being and in economic well-being, education, health and family and community. The 2015 KIDS COUNT Data Book focuses on America's children in the midst of the country's economic recovery. While data show improvements in child health and education, more families are struggling to make ends meet, and a growing number of kids live in high-poverty neighborhoods. In addition to ranking states in several areas of child well-being, the report also examines the influence of parents' education, health and other life circumstances on their children. See the [Kids Count Profile for Kansas](#).

### The Health Costs of Alzheimer's in the U.S.



Alzheimer's disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the U.S. and one of the top-10 leading causes of death that cannot be cured, slowed or prevented, according to the Alzheimer's Association. So how should public health professionals be talking about it? Click the logo for a link to the Public Health Newswire article.

### Outstanding Safe Kids Day Event Award



Safe Kids Kansas was presented with the Outstanding Safe Kids Day Event award in August at the Safe Kids Worldwide Injury Prevention Conference in Washington, DC. This is the first year this award has been given. Safe Kids Kansas was selected out of 156 coalitions hosting 180 events for Safe Kids Day in 2015. The event was a collaboration, just like the work Kansas partners do together so our little kids can grow up to do big things! The funds raised from Safe Kids Day are supporting prevention programs to keep Kansas kids safe from unintentional injury. Thanks for all you do, and Safe Kids looks forward to building upon this success and having an amazing event in 2016. Next year will also mark the 25th anniversary of Safe Kids Kansas.

### Pool Safely Song



The Consumer Product Safety Commission and nationally recognized singer/songwriter Laurie Berkner, launched the [Pool Safely](#) song and video for kids this summer. As your family continues to have fun in and around water, sing along with

Laurie and learn the four simple steps to staying safer:

1. Everyone should learn to swim.
2. Don't climb over gates or fences.
3. Stay away from drains in pools and spas.
4. Kids should always ask an adult for permission before going in or near the water.

The video is uploaded on the [Pool Safely YouTube page](#) and [PoolSafely.gov](#).

### Keep Kids' Mouths Healthy



The Keep Kids' Mouths Healthy website has information on how to help kids brush their teeth 2min2x -- two minutes each time, twice a day -- for healthier teeth, good breath, fewer cavities, and to avoid painful dental problems. [The Partnership for Healthy Mouths, Healthy Lives](#) recommends that you help or watch over your kids' brushing until they're eight. Once your child's teeth start to come into the mouth, brush using a children's toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste in an amount no more than the size of a grain of rice. Click the logo above to access this interactive website.

### Safe Youth. Safe Schools.



Fresh haircuts, new clothes, and backpacks stuffed with markers, pencils, and binders—everything a child needs to start a new school year. As millions of students return to school this fall, teachers will plan their school supply list, and parents will carefully make sure their child is prepared with each and every item. Safety should also be on everyone's back-to-school list. Parents, students, educators, and community members can all take action to keep children safe—in and away from school. Click the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo to learn more.



### Autism Costs Could Skyrocket, Experts Warn

For the first time, health economists have projected the current and future costs of caring for people with [autism spectrum disorder](#) (ASD) in the United States. The prognosis: already astronomical costs will continue to rise unless things change. Click on the logo for more information.

### Is Public Health a 'Dirty Word?'



Public health may be a "dirty word" to people not in the public health community. This reality, delivered by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Associate Director for Communication Katherine Lyon Daniel at the [2015 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing and Media](#), spoke to the ability — or lack thereof — of health communicators worldwide to consistently share information that affects behavior in the ways that they want it to. She noticed it while sitting in on a study funded by the CDC Foundation, where a group of non-public health professionals used personal radio dials to turn the volume up when they liked words spoken by the moderator, or down if they didn't like it. The group consistently did not like the words public health. "So if we keep talking to people in the same words that we want to use then we're not going to be understood in every media village. We have to adapt," Lyon Daniel said. To read the complete article click the public health newswire logo.

### New Programs Targeting Health Care Superusers



As the Government Accountability Office outlined this spring, just five percent of patients nationwide make up 50 percent of health care spending. It's a group Atul Gawande documented in his seminal New Yorker article, "The Hot Spotters," in 2011. Since then, we've seen some in health care shift their focus toward people who are among the most marginalized in our society. The theory is that underlying problems like mental illness, poverty and isolation drive some patients with chronic illnesses to be hospitalized and use the emergency room more. So addressing those social problems could cut costs. The consultant group Oliver Wyman estimates we could save as much as \$300 billion annually if we find better ways to treat people with chronic illnesses. This article from Reporting on Health discusses deep skepticism surrounding the work in addressing the needs of the sickest and most expensive patients in America, and why innovations that improve health and save money are so rare.

### For Vaccines Needed in an Epidemic, Timing Is Everything



Vaccines are one of the great triumphs of science, but the way that modern medicine functions makes it hard to develop new ones. In a recent issue of The New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Stanley A. Plotkin, Dr. Adel A.F. Mahmoud and Jeremy Farrar, the director of the [Wellcome Trust](#), issued a [call for better ways to get vaccines through the pipeline more quickly](#). They proposed the creation of a global vaccine-development fund, supported by governments, pharmaceutical companies and philanthropies. To read the complete article click the New York Times logo.

### What You Should Know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season



Visit [What You Should Know for the 2015-2016 Influenza Season](#) for flu and flu vaccine information specific to the current flu season. You can find other flu resources [here](#). The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) 2015-16 Recommendations for prevention and control of seasonal influenza were published in complete form in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on August 6, 2015. The report is available at [MMWR](#).

### CDC Vaccine Schedules App



Healthcare professionals who recommend or administer vaccines can immediately access all CDC-recommended vaccination schedules and footnotes using the CDC Vaccine Schedules app. Optimized for tablets and useful on smartphones, the app shows the child, adolescent, and adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Get the app by clicking on the logo.

### ASTHO's Blog Article, Poverty Hurts Kid's Brain Development and Grades



The Associations of State and Territorial Health Officials' (ASTHO) blog [StatePublicHealth.org](#), includes the article [Poverty Hurts Kids' Brain Development and Grades, Study of MRI Scans Shows](#). This article includes information on a study that found toxic stress and other elements of poverty can disrupt brain development in otherwise healthy children.

### Reserve the Sugary Drink Display for the Fall!



The Oral Health Kansas sugary drink display has been traveling around the state, making stops across Kansas such as Garnett, El Dorado and Erie. Reserve the traveling sugary drink display for your event! This display is completely free, and return shipping costs are reimbursed by Oral Health Kansas. Learn more on our [website](#) and [email us](#) if you are interested in hosting the display!



### Job Postings

Applications are being accepted for the positions listed below.

#### Barton

- [Public Health Nurse \(Maternal & Infant\)](#)

#### City-Cowley County Health Department

- [Administrator/Health Officer](#)
- [Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator](#)

#### Franklin County Health Department

- [Registered Nurse \(PT\) \(20 Hrs. week\)](#)

#### Geary County

- [Health Nurse I/II-RN/BSN](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner \(APRN\)](#)

#### Kansas State University

- [MPH Director](#)

#### Konza Prairie Community Health and Dental Center

- [Clinical Psychologist or LCSW](#)
- [Dental Assistant](#)

#### Lawrence - Douglas County

- [Public Health Nutritionist \(PT\)](#)

#### Reno County Health Department

- [Public Health Nurse Stand by \(PRN\)](#)

#### Riley County

- [Social Worker - Riley County Public Health Nurse](#)
- [Public Health Nurse-Maternal and Infant Division](#)

#### Shawnee County Health Agency

- [Intermittent LPN](#)
- [RN MCH Outreach \(Health Agency\)](#)

#### Sedgwick County

- [Health-Staff Nurse](#)
- [Health-WIC IAP Immunization Nurse](#)

#### Wyandotte County

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

#### Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

<a href="#">Epi Updates Newsletter</a>	<a href="#">Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program</a>
<a href="#">Green Guide</a>	<a href="#">Newborn Screening Newsletter</a>
<a href="#">Health Homes Herald</a>	<a href="#">Nutrition and WIC Update</a>
<a href="#">KanCare Advisor</a>	<a href="#">Oral Health Newsletter</a>
<a href="#">Kansas Environmental News</a>	<a href="#">What's Happening Wednesday (Immunization)</a>
<a href="#">Kansas Health Statistics Report</a>	<a href="#">ZIPS Newsletter - Bureau of Family Health/Children and Families</a>

#### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, e-mail [bchs@kdheks.gov](mailto:bchs@kdheks.gov).

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

[http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm)

Send your public health news to

Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov).